

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this FY 10 Interior-Environment Appropriations bill for the investments it makes in our infrastructure, natural resources and cultural life—as well as its commitment to tackling the ongoing challenge of global climate change.

This legislation provides \$10.46 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency to safeguard our nation's land, air and water. Of that amount, \$2.3 billion will go to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$1.4 billion will go to the Drinking Water State revolving fund to help over 1500 communities improve their wastewater and drinking water systems. One and a half billion dollars will go to clean up hazardous and toxic waste, including \$605 million for our nation's most toxic Superfund sites and \$100 million for brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. And \$601 million is provided at President Obama's request to enable the EPA to enforce our nation's environmental laws.

Our national parks receive \$2.7 billion, which includes \$100 million to support the park service's 10-year initiative to upgrade park facilities before the National Park System's Centennial Anniversary in 2016. Our national wildlife refuge system is provided \$503 million for its conservation efforts. And the U.S. Forest service is allocated \$2.77 billion to manage of (Air federal forests—including targeted support for the Legacy Road and Trail Remediation program protecting streams and water systems from damaged forest roads, as well as the Forest Legacy Land Conservation Program to help protect environmentally important, privately owned forest lands.

To support our nation's cultural heritage, this legislation invests \$340 million, split evenly between the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. And the Smithsonian will receive \$774 million for reducing its backlog of deferred maintenance and the planning and design of the new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Finally, this bill provides a total of \$420 million on climate change related initiatives—including \$50 million for the EPA's Energy Star program, \$17 million for the development of a Greenhouse Gas Registry necessary for monitoring greenhouse gases and \$10 million for new grants to empower local communities to find innovative ways to cut their, greenhouse gas emissions.

Madam Chair, I commend Chairman DICKS, Ranking Member SIMPSON and the rest of the subcommittee for developing this thoughtful bill, and I urge my colleagues' support.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
OLMSTEAD DECISION SUP-
PORTING CIVIL RIGHTS FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to take this moment to recognize the tenth anniversary of a monumental United States Supreme Court decision that represented a great advance in our contemporary civil rights struggle. On June 22, 1999, the United States Supreme Court asserted the right of individuals with disabilities to reside in their community via a 6–3 ruling. The Olmstead v. L.C. decision stated that making services for disabled individuals available only in institutions, thereby forcing them out of their homes, went against the Americans with Disabilities Act. Essentially, the Olmstead decision clarified the fact that the Americans with Disabilities Act gives individuals with disabilities the right to choose to receive their care in the community rather than in an institutional setting. Provision of care within one's community via personal care assistants is cost-effective and improves the quality of life of persons with disabilities. Studies show the cost of providing services in the community is much lower than in institutionalized settings, thereby allowing more individuals to receive services for the same cost. In addition, the ability to receive community based services and supports improves the ability of persons with disabilities to lead independent lives, work, and participate in their communities.

The federal government bears the responsibility of restructuring our current health care system. The inequities that exist in our health care system are profoundly disturbing. It is essential that we take the steps necessary to create an overhaul of the health care system that is both moral and practical. As Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said: "Of all the forms of inequality injustice, health care is the most shocking and inhumane." In this spirit, I urge concerned citizens to mobilize to help us create a system that best serves those in our society who have limited resources.

As a policymaker who is adamant about improving health care for persons with disabilities, I believe it is imperative that the health care reform legislation that Congress intends to enact this year take a substantial step forward in requiring that all Medicaid-eligible individuals with disabilities have a choice between receiving care at home or in an institution. The option to receive care in one's community is critical to conforming to the goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act and with the Olmstead decision.

The Olmstead decision was a great step forward in allowing persons with disabilities the option to receive care in their own community. The tenth anniversary of the Olmstead decision symbolizes the struggle to create more options in our current health care system. We must strive to include the tenets of the Olmstead decision in our health care reform plans. Including provisions that provide choice in location of care to Medicaid-eligible persons with disabilities in comprehensive health care reform legislation would be a wonderful way to

mark the tenth anniversary of the Olmstead decision.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COM-
PREHENSIVE COMPARATIVE
STUDY OF VACCINATED AND
UNVACCINATED POPULATIONS
ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 26, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation that I hope will resolve the question of whether there is any link between the increased incidence of neurological disorders, including autism, and the use of certain vaccines and/or multiple vaccine schedules. Vaccines have been instrumental in reducing the incidence of many once-common diseases. However, there continue to be questions raised in numerous media reports, and by medical professionals, regarding the safety of vaccines and multiple vaccine schedules while there have been no comprehensive studies comparing the health outcomes between vaccinated and unvaccinated populations.

We owe it to parents and children to study and resolve the question of a possible link between vaccines and neurological disorders. The comprehensive national study comparing outcomes between vaccinated and unvaccinated children mandated by this legislation would help resolve this controversy once and for all. As the most scientifically advanced country in the world, we should be jumping at the chance to conduct a comprehensive national study and help ensure absolute trust in our nation's vaccine program. Parents deserve answers, and children deserve no less than absolute certainty and safety when it comes to their health, which is why I am pleased to reintroduce this legislation today.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SE-
CURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2009 and the employees of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The service and dedication of the men and women that work to ensure the safety of our country is admirable.

This bill responds to the public safety needs of our communities in a time of hardship by providing \$800 million in grants to fire departments, of which \$380 million is provided for the Assistance for Firefighters Grants program used to train, hire and retain our local firemen